

In This Issue

- EAB in Wisconsin
- Pesticides
- Community Planning
- Survey Update

Wisconsin Now Home to EAB

Mick Skwarok / DATCP

The ash-killing emerald ash borer has been detected for the first time in Wisconsin. In Ozaukee County, the beetle was uncovered in a private woodlot in the Township of Saukville, near the border of Washington County. A few days after that discovery, additional samples were collected from a purple, sticky trap deployed in Fireman's Park in the Village of Newburg, just inside the Washington County line. As of the beginning of October 2008, no other confirmed locations of EAB are known to exist in Wisconsin outside of the Newburg-Saukville area.

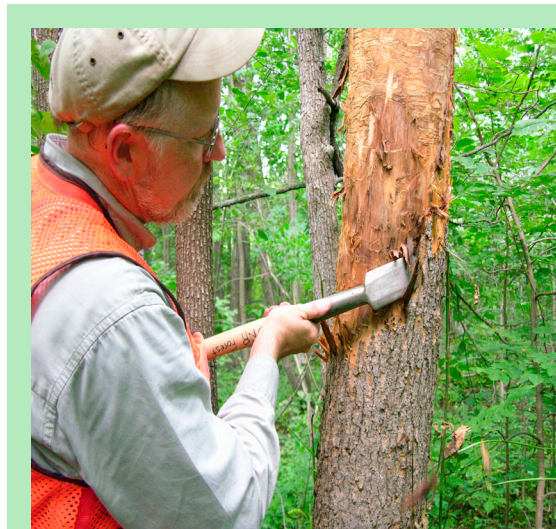
So what happens now that EAB has landed in Wisconsin? And what can state residents do to help keep the problem in check?

Within a few days of that first find, surveyors from the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, the DNR and the USDA were in the area laying out a plan to systematically survey the communities and countryside within a 10-mile radius of Newburg. Much of that "rapid visual assessment" has been completed and observers have so far identified several dozen trees that require additional inspection. Crews will also head back into the area to peel bark from a number of ash trees, with an eye toward defining the extent of the infestation.

"If we can describe the perimeter of the infestation, we'll be able to make a better decision about how to attack it," said Melody Walker, pest survey section chief with the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture. "Working closely with local officials to put a response plan into place that will help minimize the potential destruction of this pest is the goal of our work."

How to Help

Don't Move Firewood. Many of the new infestations of EAB in the Midwest were started by someone moving infested firewood. With EAB now here, the stakes have been raised in Wisconsin's on-going



efforts to spread the word about not spreading firewood. Remind friends and neighbors of the risks involved with moving firewood.

Follow Regulations. Ozaukee, Washington, Fond du Lac and Sheboygan counties are currently under an EAB quarantine. Ash products such as timber, nursery stock, pallets and hardwood firewood (any species) cannot be moved outside of the quarantine without state or federal inspection and certification. Even within the quarantine, it's a bad idea to move those products around, especially firewood.

Know the Signs of EAB. Early detection through careful observation is one of our best tools until science provides us with dependable traps. Unfortunately, misdiagnosing EAB in ash is commonplace. Many of the clues that a tree is stressed or declining can actually be the result of something as simple as drought. Know exactly what you're looking for (here's a good resource: <http://www.dnr.wi.gov/Forestry/FH/Ash/eab-symptoms.htm>) then call the Wisconsin EAB Hotline. The number is **1-800-462-2803**.

Fighting the Borer: To Spray or Not to Spray

Michael Penn / UW Madison

In the six years since the emerald ash borer was first spotted in Michigan, several new management strategies, including the use of insecticides, have emerged. But so, too, has confusion about when and how to deploy those tools.

“There's a lot of misinformation out there right now,” says Chris Williamson, a University of Wisconsin-Madison associate professor of entomology and an insect-control specialist for UW-Extension. “It's critical to get correct information before you make a decision.”

Williamson says researchers in Michigan and Ohio have found that several types of pesticides can be effective in controlling emerald ash borer. One of the most thoroughly tested is imidacloprid, which is an active ingredient in both professional and over-the-counter pesticides. Imidacloprid is a neurotoxin that kills insects as they bore through trees, and it is usually applied once a year by pouring or injecting the pesticide into soil surrounding affected trees.

A more recent addition to the arsenal is the chemical emamectin benzoate, which is typically injected into the bark of a tree. Marketed under the name Tree-Age, this new pesticide has shown impressive potency in early trials, but it is not yet approved for use in Wisconsin.

Williamson says it's important to remember that we have only known about emerald ash borer—a native of Asia—since 2002, and we don't yet have comprehensive data on any treatment. “Nothing has been proven to work all the time, and there's no evidence that higher-cost, more invasive techniques are any more effective than do-it-yourself ones,” he says.

Because the insects don't travel very far on their own, Williamson stresses that the highest risk falls within 10-12 miles of known infestations. For most parts of the state, the best approach right now is likely to do nothing. Although emerald ash borers have spread to 10 states and killed 25 million trees throughout the upper Midwest, the insects don't travel very far on their own. Mostly, they get a free ride from humans through the transportation of firewood and other infested wood products.

Williamson's final piece of advice is to maintain perspective. While the damage caused by emerald ash borer throughout the Midwest warrants concern, he says at this time of year the insects are not in a mobile

stage. “We have time—probably until next May, before the adult insects begin to fly—to make an informed and appropriate management decision,” he says.

Further information on emerald ash borer and insecticides can be found at two Web sites from [state](#) and [campus](#) sources.

EAB & Community Budget Planning

Virginia Mayo Black / DNR

As a result of Wisconsin's first EAB find, a community's preparation and response to a potential EAB infestation needs to be addressed in this year's municipal budget conversations.

“Budget time is when officials and citizens should consider how an EAB infestation would impact their community and what they can do to prepare,” according to State Urban Forestry Coordinator Dick Rideout.

Rideout said local communities need to be proactive in their approach to EAB, rather than merely reacting to an infestation. “Experience in other infested states has shown that waiting to respond can increase tree removal costs by two to three times. In addition, communities that planned, had funds for replanting lost trees,” Rideout said. “Those that did not plan ahead are not replanting.”

“EAB will spread in Wisconsin and communities need to consider what will be done if the destructive insect is found in local ash trees,” Rideout said.

An excellent source of information, particularly for officials, board and council members, and arborists is the EAB Toolkit for Wisconsin Communities. The Toolkit is a detailed compilation of documents that can help guide EAB discussion. Rideout said the Toolkit can be downloaded free of charge from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources' Urban Forestry webpage at <http://dnr.wi.gov/forestry/uf/eab/>.

Another comprehensive source of information is the Wisconsin's Emerald Ash Borer Resource website at <http://emeraldashborer.wi.gov>. Rideout said the website has links to current developments, to scientific information, and to the agencies involved in the EAB battle.

By taking a proactive approach, Rideout said taxpayer costs can be reduced and potential problems can be resolved before the invasive arrives in a community.

What's The Big Deal about Firewood?

Colleen Robinson-Klug / DNR

EAB lives most of its two-year life out of sight. Under the tree's bark it eats away and cuts off a tree's water and nutrient transportation system. This EAB life stage, the feeding larvae, kills ash trees. This year you won't see the adult, emerald green, flying insects anymore. Their brief life has ended. But they have deposited eggs into ash tree bark and new developing larvae will be busy eating inside the tree for up to two years before they emerge as adult, flying insects themselves.

The amount of time spent inside the tree, where they cannot be seen from the outside, allows EAB to easily hitch rides to new areas on firewood without anyone even noticing. Firewood a year old can still harbor living EAB larvae and transport them if it is moved. That is why it is so important to keep firewood local. Don't move firewood, and you'll help protect urban trees, forests, ecosystems, and economies in Wisconsin.

EAB can also move within ash nursery stock and many rough ash products such as pallets, mulch, and more. EAB quarantines regulate the movement of hardwood firewood and other ash products to slow the spread of ash destruction. Currently in Wisconsin, such items cannot be moved out of a four county quarantine; Ozaukee, Washington, Sheboygan, and Fond du Lac. The rules are in place to help keep the impact of EAB as small as possible for businesses and individuals, and they are enforced with hefty fines. For more information read the [Easy Guide for EAB Regulations](#) and visit www.emeraldashborer.wi.gov.

EAB isn't the only destructive pest or disease that gains Wisconsin ground by moving in firewood. So please, don't move firewood.



countryside in many southern Wisconsin counties have been taken down and examined. Save for the beetles pulled from the sticky goo on the trap in Newburg, no other adult beetles have been discovered. Another trapping program is anticipated for 2009, with details to be determined in the coming months.

The fall and winter survey for EAB has just gotten underway in a handful of counties. This is the survey where trees are taken down and stripped of bark, with crews searching for signs of EAB larvae hidden in the cambium layer of the tree. By the end of the calendar year, some 719 trees in 29 counties will come down.

As of early October, crews have finished working in Ozaukee, Fond du Lac, Dane and Winnebago counties. Underway are surveys in Washington, Sheboygan and Juneau counties.

Many of the "cut and peel" trees are located within or near the four counties that are currently quarantined for EAB. So far, no additional infestations have been discovered.

Survey Update

Mick Skwarok / DATCP

During the last few months, surveys for emerald ash borer have either wrapped or just begun – depending on which survey is in question.

More than 3,600 of the kite-like purple traps that many people would recognize from dotting the

Wisconsin Emerald Ash Borer Program

Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade & Consumer Protection, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, University of Wisconsin Madison & Extension, US Forest Service, USDA-APHIS

www.EmeraldAshBorer.wi.gov

1-800-462-2803